



CITY OF BILLINGS
OFFICE OF CITY ADMINISTRATOR

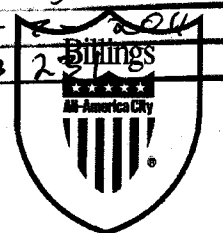
P.O. BOX 1178
BILLINGS, MONTANA 59103
(406) 657-8433
FAX (406) 657-8390

Senate Local Govt. Comm.

Exhibit No. 3

Date 3 - 24

Bill No. HB 231



March 7, 2011

Senator Jon Sonju
Senate Local Government Committee
Montana State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59601

Re: HB 231, a bill to repeal requirements to hire career paid firefighters

Dear Chairman Sonju and Senate Local Government Committee Members:

The Billings City Council has voted to endorse HB 231, which would restore to local governments the ability to better govern, manage and control fire departments by adopting the type of fire protection which best satisfies their specific circumstance and needs.

Although the City of Billings does not intend to change how its fire protection is presently structured and managed, the flexibility allowed by HB 231 would benefit the citizens of cities of all classes and sizes in Montana. Permitting all cities to make their own fire protection structure decisions is the proper governmental level for this extremely important service.

Thank you for your consideration of this and other proposed legislation significant to local government operations.

Sincerely,

Christina F. "Tina" Volek
Billings City Administrator

Billings Pride:
City-wide